GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3295
ANSWERED ON:15.04.2008
TRADE WITH US
Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji;Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and the United States have formulated an action plan to step up cooperation in high technology areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the areas identified to step up bilateral trade with United States; and

(d) the other steps taken by the Government to boost the bilateral trade with US?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) & (b) Yes. A High Technology Cooperation Group (HTCG) was constituted in 2003 to provide a framework for facilitating and promoting US-India high-technology trade.Four broad areas have been identified for priority focus in high technology items, viz., (1) Defence & Strategic Trade, (2) Biotechnology, (3) Information Technology and (4) Nanotechnology.

The sixth meeting of the HTCG was held in New Delhi on February 28-29,2008 where the two Governments considered the recommendations received from Indian and US industry on the above mentioned four areas and agreed on a comprehensive plan to enhance high technology transfers.

(c) Other areas identified for stepping up bilateral trade with United States are being pursued through the India-US Trade Policy Forum and Commercial Dialogue and include respectively:

(i) agriculture, tariff & non-tariff barriers, services, investment and innovation & creativity;

(ii) standards, anti-dumping/countervailing duty practices, capacity building, human resources development and public awareness programmes under Intellectual Property Rights and small and medium sized enterprises.

(d) An India-US Private Sector Advisory Group (PSAG) has been created to provide strategic direction, input and support to the Trade Policy Forum. The Embassy of India and the four Indian Consulates (in the United States) undertake regular market promotion activities to increase Indian exports, including assisting visiting business delegations from India,conducting market surveys and responding to the trade enquiries.